

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin comprising:

a ball portion formed at the joining end of a first limb member, the ball portion having a surface and a slit formed therein;

a socket portion formed at the joining end of a second limb member, the ball portion being at least partially inserted into the socket portion, the socket portion being sized and shaped to closely fit the ball portion inserted therein and the interior surface of the socket portion having a tab attached thereto, said tab being adapted to be received by the slit and to fill 80% or more of the slit, said tab being ~~and~~ pivotally attached to said first limb member, wherein the distance between the interior surface of the socket portion and the surface of the ball portion is substantially uniform for the entire ball portion that is inserted within the socket portion; and

a friction-producing assembly fixture recessed within the first limb member, and in contact with said tab wherein the friction-producing assembly fixture comprises:

an open-ended chamber extending into the first member from said slit; a reversibly-compressible material positioned at the closed end of said chamber; and a bearing positioned between the reversibly-compressible material and the tab.

2. (original) The joint structure of claim 1 wherein the tab is fixedly attached to the second limb member.

3. (original) The joint structure of claim 2 wherein the tab is molded as one unit with the second limb member.
4. (withdrawn) The joint structure of claim 1 wherein the tab is pivotally attached to the second limb member to allow rotation of the second limb member with respect to the tab.
5. (withdrawn) The joint structure of claim 4 wherein a rod assembly attaches the tab to the second limb member.
6. (withdrawn) The joint structure of claim 5 wherein the rod assembly comprises a threaded rod and a socket adapted to receive said rod, said socket being formed in said tab.
7. (withdrawn) The joint structure of claim 6 wherein the rod assembly further comprises a bushing adapted to receive said rod, said bushing being attached to said second limb member.
8. (withdrawn) The joint structure of claim 7 wherein said rod has a first end comprising a head and a second end affixed to said socket and said bushing is affixed to said second limb member and disposed between said first and second ends of said rod, whereby said second limb member cannot be readily removed from said first limb member after assembly of said joint.
9. (previously presented) The joint structure of claim 1 wherein the edge of said socket portion encloses the ball portion inserted therein around the periphery of said edge.
10. (previously presented) The joint structure of claim 1 wherein the reversibly-compressible material is a spring.

11. (previously presented) The joint structure of claim 10, wherein the tab is attached to the first limb member by means of a pivot pin extending through said tab and at least partly through said first limb member.

12. (original) The joint structure of claim 1 which forms a joint selected from the group consisting of a neck, a shoulder, an elbow, a hip, a knee, and an ankle.

13. (original) A mannequin comprising a joint structure of claim 1.

14. (previously presented) The joint structure of claim 1 wherein the tab effectively fills the slit.

15. (currently amended) A joint structure for joining limb members of a mannequin comprising:

a ball portion formed at the joining end of a first limb member, the ball portion having a surface and a slit formed therein;

a socket portion formed at the joining end of a second limb member, the ball portion being at least partially inserted into the socket portion, the socket portion being sized and shaped to closely fit the ball portion inserted therein and the interior surface of the socket portion having a tab attached thereto, said tab being adapted to be received by the slit and to fill 80% or more of the slit, said tab being ~~and~~ pivotally attached to said first limb member and having one or more surface depressions, wherein the distance between the interior surface of the socket portion and the surface of the ball portion is substantially uniform for the entire ball portion that is inserted within the socket portion; and

a friction-producing assembly fixture recessed within the first limb member and in contact with said tab wherein the friction-producing assembly fixture comprises:

an open-ended chamber extending into the first member from said slit; a reversibly-compressible material positioned at the closed end of said chamber; and a bearing positioned between the reversibly-compressible material and the tab.

16. (original) The joint structure of claim 15 wherein the tab is molded as one unit with the second limb member.

17. (withdrawn) The joint structure of claim 15 wherein the tab is pivotally attached to the second limb member to allow rotation of the second limb member with respect to the tab.

18. (withdrawn) The joint structure of claim 17 wherein a rod and socket assembly attaches the tab to the second limb member.

19. (withdrawn) The joint structure of claim 18 wherein the rod assembly comprises a threaded rod and a socket adapted to receive said rod, said socket being formed in said tab.

20. (withdrawn) The joint structure of claim 19 wherein the rod assembly further comprises a bushing adapted to receive said rod, said bushing being attached to said second limb member.

21. (original) The joint structure of claim 15 wherein the surface depressions are grooves.

22. (previously presented) The joint structure of claim 15 wherein the edge of said socket portion encloses the ball portion inserted therein around the periphery of said edge.

23. (previously presented) The joint structure of claim 15 wherein the reversibly-compressible material is a spring.

24. (previously presented) The joint structure of claim 23, wherein the tab is attached to the first limb member by means of a pivot pin extending through said tab and at least partly through said first limb member.

25. (original) A mannequin comprising a joint structure of claim 15.

26. (original) The mannequin of claim 25 wherein said joint structure forms a joint selected from the group consisting of a neck, a shoulder, an elbow, a hip, a knee, and an ankle.

27. (previously presented) The joint structure of claim 15, wherein the tab effectively fills the slit.

28. (original) The joint structure of claim 27 wherein the surface depressions are grooves.

29-34 Cancelled.